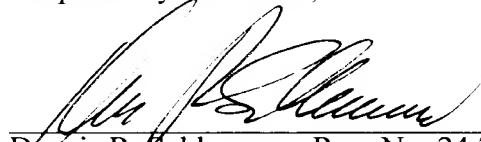


*REMARKS*

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, claim 13, which had been indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 32. Independent claims 17 and 24 have been amended to include what is believed to be the novel subject matter of claim 29, which also was indicated as being allowable. These claims now both call for the orifice in the flow restrictor conduit wall to be at an angle other than perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the conduit. This important feature allows liquid flow distribution to reach below the plane of the bottom of the nozzle, and by doing so, the device is able to achieve high efficiency contact between the mineralizer regeneration chemicals and the ion exchange resin. An effort has also been made to correct each of the informalities noted by the Examiner.

By reason of the foregoing amendments, the claims as now presented all are believed to be in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment or ROA - Regular (New 3/21/03)